



Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
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1. Error in Iowa Waterfowl Hunting Regulations
2. Viking Lake Renovation to Begin Sept. 11
3. Don't Bring Out of State Firewood to Iowa Parks and Forests
4. Exotic Honeysuckle Invades Many Iowa Woodlands
5. DNR to Work on Cold Springs Lake in September, October

ERROR IN IOWA WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS

DES MOINES - There is an error in the season information printed in the 2006 Iowa Waterfowl Hunting Regulations that involves canvasbacks. As printed, the regulations booklet specifies season dates for "Ducks, Mergansers and Coots – excluding canvasbacks." This is incorrect. The season for canvasbacks is open with all Ducks, Mergansers and Coots in both the north and south duck hunting zones in Iowa this year.

Last year, canvasbacks had a much shorter season, which required a separate entry in the waterfowl regulations booklet, and a reference to "excluding canvasbacks" under the Ducks, Mergansers and Coots entry. This reference to "excluding canvasbacks" was, regrettably, not deleted. We apologize for any confusion.

A corrected version of the Waterfowl Seasons is available on the Iowa Department of Natural Resources website at www.iowadnr.com. Click on Hunting, then on Hunting and Trapping Regulations, then click on Migratory Bird Regulations. The season dates and bag limits are on page 6.

The north duck zone season is Sept. 23 through 27, and from Oct. 14 through Dec. 7. The South Duck Zone is Sept. 23 through 27 and from Oct. 21 through Dec. 14.

The daily bag limit for ducks is six with no more than four mallards (of which no more than two may be female, two wood ducks, two redheads, one black duck, one pintail, one canvasback, and two scaup.

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VIKING LAKE RENOVATION TO BEGIN SEPT. 11

RED OAK - The water level at Viking Lake will be lowered beginning Sept. 11 to allow the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to renovate the fish population that has been overtaken by small yellow bass. The work initially called for 85 percent of the lake water to be removed, but the DNR will lower the 137-acre lake completely to address some problems with the outlet gate.

“The gates had been leaking for a while so we decided to fix the problem, replace any worn parts and to give the gates a good cleaning while the other work was underway,” said Chris Larson, fisheries biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “But in order for us to work on the gates, the remaining 15 percent of the lake water volume had to be released.”

The fish population will be chemically renovated in late September. After the lake is emptied, any remaining pools will receive a chemical treatment to make sure all yellow bass are eliminated. The gates will be closed in early October and the lake will be allowed to refill.

“This additional work should not impact the schedule for the lake to refill much at all,” Larson said.

Viking Lake will be re-stocked with advanced growth fingerling bluegills, largemouth bass and channel catfish this fall or next spring.

For more information, contact DNR fisheries biologist Chris Larson, at 712-769-2587.

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DON'T BRING OUT OF STATE FIREWOOD TO IOWA PARKS AND FORESTS

DES MOINES – While thousands of Iowans will be camping and building campfires over the Labor Day holiday as a farewell to summer, state forestry officials are urging visitors and campers not to bring out of state firewood into Iowa state parks and forests.

“Transporting firewood from out of state sources could threaten the health of our ash trees by spreading the dreaded emerald ash borer that lives in ash firewood,” said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau.

Forestry experts in Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, and most recently Illinois are in a battle against the “emerald ash borer,” a tiny green beetle that was accidentally introduced to the U.S. from Asia. Since its discovery in 2002, the insect has killed more than 20 million ash trees in the lower peninsula of Michigan, northern Indiana, and northern Ohio alone. “Within the last month, emerald ash borer has been found in three Chicago metro areas. The borer attacks all species of native ash, green, white and black ash and all associated landscape cultivars,” Walkowiak said. “Ash trees are common in our forests, and have been heavily used in urban landscapes, perhaps totaling one in every five trees in a typical Iowa city.

“To date, continuing joint trap tree work and survey efforts by Iowa DNR and Iowa State University Extension Entomology have not found emerald ash borer in Iowa,” Walkowiak said. “There is no reason to remove ash trees or to do any type of chemical treatments for a pest that has yet to be found. But, by reducing the movement of out of state firewood to Iowa public camping areas we can minimize the risk of accidental introduction of an unwanted pest such as emerald ash borer.

“Wisconsin and Illinois have recently banned bringing out of state firewood into their state parks as the concern of emerald ash borer coming from Michigan,” he said.. Walkowiak urged travelers to emerald ash borer infected states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio not to bring back firewood from those states to Iowa. “Plenty of firewood is available locally at your favorite state or county parks. Lastly, make sure you burn all of your firewood at your campsite and not leave it or transport to a new area.”

For more information about emerald ash borer go to www.emeraldashborer.org.

For more information, contact Walkowiak at 515-242-5966 or by e-mail at john.walkowiak@dnr.state.ia.us

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EXOTIC HONEYSUCKLE INVADES MANY IOWA WOODLANDS

Iowa’s woodlands are a place to pick morel mushrooms, to see wildflowers, wildlife, and an array of fall colors. Currently, the beauty and quality of Iowa’s woodlands is being threatened by a variety of exotic, non-native plants such as honeysuckle.

“Exotic plants such as honeysuckle are a threat to our woodlands because they are very aggressive and out-compete native vegetation for space,” said Mark Vitosh, district forester with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. “The reduction of native plants within our woodlands can negatively impact wildlife that depends on specific habitats, and it can also reduce the overall quality and balance of native woodlands.”

Exotic honeysuckle is a shrub that can be introduced into a forested area by birds. This multi-stemmed shrub can grow eight to 15 feet tall, and it can have a spread up to 10 feet wide. This plant can be so aggressive that invaded woodlands are often difficult to even walk through. Two common exotic honeysuckles found in Iowa's woodland include Amur (*Lonicera maackii*) and Tatarian (*Lonicera tatarica*). Both plants leaf-out early in the spring before most of the native shrubs. Flowers on different selections of these two plants can be white, pinkish-red, or yellow while fruit colors can be red or yellowish-orange.

When trying to eliminate this plant in woodlands, pulling is a good technique on plants smaller than 3 feet tall. The best control method for larger plants is to cut the plants in the fall, and treat the stumps immediately with a registered herbicide to prevent re-sprouting. "A good way to prevent invasive plants such as exotic honeysuckle from over-taking your woodlands is to take a walk through your property a number of times throughout the year to monitor the site for the presents of this plant and other exotics," Vitosh said.

Exotic honeysuckle and a number of other exotic plants such as garlic mustard, common buckthorn, multi-flora rose, privet, and barberry are threatening the quality of Iowa's woodlands. The longer these plants are allowed to spread, the more difficult they will be to control in the future. To get assistance in assessing the health of your forest resources contact your Iowa DNR District Forester. To locate your forester on the web, log on to www.iowadnr.com/forestry/district.html.

For more information, contact Vitosh at 319-523-2216 or by e-mail at Mark.Vitosh@dnr.state.ia.us.

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DNR TO WORK ON COLD SPRINGS LAKE IN SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER

LEWIS – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will lower the water level two feet at Cold Springs Lake in early September to work on the outlet structure before the fish population is renovated in October. The concrete outlet wing walls are crumbling and the stop logs are deteriorating to the point where repairs are needed.

In October, the DNR will eliminate the fish population. The lake will be restocked with largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. The fish population was out of balance, because of too many small crappie, reducing fishing activity at the 16-acre lake.

For more information, contact DNR fisheries biologist Chris Larson, at 712-769-2587.

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